



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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**ACTING UNDERBOSS AND OTHER LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF
GAMBINO CRIME FAMILY PLEAD GUILTY TO RACKETEERING,
EXTORTION AND OTHER CRIMES**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and MARK MERSHON, Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Office of the FBI, announced today that five defendants charged as members of the Gambino Organized Crime Family, including Acting Underboss ANTHONY MEGALE, a/k/a "Mac," a/k/a "Machiavelli," Capo ALPHONSE SISCA, a/k/a "Funzi," and Soldiers LOUIS FILIPPELLI, ROBERT VACCARO, and NICHOLAS LASORSA, have pled guilty in federal court in Manhattan to racketeering, extortion, and other related charges. In addition, CHRISTOPHER SUCARATO and JOSEPH FORNINO, charged as Gambino Family associates, as well as ROBERT VACCARO, JR., also pled guilty earlier this week. The charges to which the defendants pled guilty were part of an Indictment unsealed last year, which charged 32 defendants, most of whom are named as members or associates of the Gambino Organized Crime Family of La Cosa Nostra ("LCN"), with wide-ranging racketeering crimes and other offenses spanning more than a decade, including violent assault, extortion of various individuals and businesses, loansharking, union embezzlement, illegal gambling, trafficking in stolen property and counterfeit goods, and mail fraud. The case, United States v. Squitieri, et al., S1 05 Cr. 228 (AKH), is currently pending before United States District Judge ALVIN K. HELLERSTEIN. These eight individuals were among eleven defendants charged with racketeering who were scheduled to go to trial on May 8, 2006.

The charges to which the defendants pled guilty were

the result of an almost three-year long investigation that included obtaining court authorization to intercept conversations among high-ranking members of the Gambino Crime Family at several locations in the Bronx and Westchester County, including at the United Hebrew Geriatrics Home, located in New Rochelle, New York. An undercover FBI agent also infiltrated the Gambino Family in the course of the investigation.

MEGALE'S plea took place yesterday before Judge HELLERSTEIN, and was followed by the guilty pleas of NICHOLAS LASORSA and ROBERT VACCARO. As part of their pleas, MEGALE and VACCARO admitted extorting the owners of a Greenwich, Connecticut restaurant, a New Jersey trucking company, and a Westchester-based construction company. In addition to these crimes, VACCARO also admitted extorting two other construction companies in the New York metropolitan area. LASORSA pled guilty to the extortion of a Bronx nightclub owner and the operation of a Gambino Family illegal gambling business.

SISCA and FILIPPELLI entered their guilty pleas on Wednesday, March 29, 2006. These two men, both of whom were charged with acting at times as a "street boss" for Gambino Family Acting Boss ARNOLD SQUITIERI, also admitted to extorting the Bronx nightclub owner. SISCA then admitted forcing an individual identified in the Indictment as Victim #1 to pay for a trip to Las Vegas, while FILIPPELLI admitted extorting the owner of a New Jersey trucking company.

As part of their guilty pleas, these defendants agreed to forfeit a total of approximately \$550,000 to the United States Government.

At their sentencings pending before Judge HELLERSTEIN, the defendants face the following maximum penalties:

- ANTHONY MEGALE: A maximum sentence of 20 years' imprisonment on each of the four counts (Counts One, Five, Thirteen and Fifteen), and fines of as much as \$250,000, or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from each of these offenses. MEGALE also agreed to forfeit \$100,000 to the United States Government. MEGALE'S sentencing is scheduled for July 18, 2006, at 9:30 a.m.
- ALPHONSE SISCA: A maximum sentence of 20 years' imprisonment on each of the three counts (Counts One, Eleven and Seventeen), and fines of as much as \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from each of the offenses. SISCA also agreed to forfeit \$100,000, to the United States Government. SISCA'S sentencing is scheduled for July 13, 2006, at 9:30 a.m.
- LOUIS FILIPPELLI: A maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment on each of the three counts (Counts One, Thirteen and Seventeen), and fines of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from each of the offenses. FILIPPELLI agreed to forfeit \$100,000 to the United States Government. FILIPPELLI'S sentencing is

scheduled for July 11, 2006, at 9:30 a.m.

- ROBERT VACCARO: A maximum sentence of 20 years' imprisonment on each of the six counts (Counts One, Five, Seven, Thirteen, Fifteen and Twenty-One), and fines of \$250,000, or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from the offenses. VACCARO agreed to forfeit \$50,000 to the United States Government. VACCARO'S sentencing is scheduled for July 19, 2006 at 9:30 a.m.

- NICHOLAS LASORSA: A maximum sentence of 20 years' imprisonment on each of the two counts of the superseding information filed today, and fines of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from the offenses. LASORSA agreed to forfeit \$100,000, to the United States Government. LASORSA'S sentencing is scheduled for May 12, 2006, at 11:00 a.m.

- CHRISTOPHER SUCARATO: A maximum sentence of 20 years' imprisonment on each of the three counts (Counts One, Eleven and Seventeen), and fines of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from the offenses. SUCARATO'S sentencing is scheduled for July 12, 2006, at 9:30 a.m.

- JOSEPH FORNINO: A maximum sentence of 5 years' imprisonment (Count Forty-Four), and a fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from the offense. FORNINO agreed to forfeit \$100,000 to the United States Government. FORNINO'S sentencing is scheduled for July 20, 2006, at 9:30 a.m.

- ROBERT VACCARO, JR.: A maximum sentence of 5 years' imprisonment on each of the two counts (Counts Thirty-Seven and Forty-Seven), and fines of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from the offense. VACCARO, JR.'S sentencing is scheduled for July 21, 2006, at 11:30 a.m.

The trial of the three remaining racketeering defendants, Gambino Family Underboss and Acting Boss ARNOLD SQUITIERI, Acting Capo GREGORY DEPALMA and Associate ROBERT PERSICO is scheduled to begin on May 8, 2006.

Mr. MERSHON stated: "The guilty pleas of eight members and associates of the Gambino family, including its Acting Underboss, are significant additional steps in the steady march toward reducing the influence of organized crime, if not eradicating it. The foundation of this investigation was not just the hundreds of intercepted conversations of the conspirators, but the heroic work of the undercover FBI agent who infiltrated the family, and the dogged and diligent efforts of his fellow agents."

Mr. GARCIA stated: "From criminal associates to the acting underboss of the Gambino crime family, these sweeping

pleas represent another victory in the Government's fight to protect citizens, businesses and labor organizations from organized crime."

Mr. GARCIA praised the efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and expressed appreciation to the United States Department of Labor.

Assistant United States Attorneys EDWARD C. O'CALLAGHAN, CHRISTOPHER P. CONNIFF, and SCOTT L. MARRAH, are in charge of the prosecutions.

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